

October 23, 2002

USDA Forest Service  
Attn: NFS – EMC Staff (Barbara Timberlake)  
Stop Code 1104  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1104

Regional Forester  
USDA Forest Service, Alaska Region  
P.O. Box 21628  
Juneau, AK 99801-1628

My name is Melissa Garver Guernsey and I have owned commercial property at mile 36 of the Seward Highway in Moose Pass since 1994. I have been a resident of Alaska since 1989 and of Moose Pass since 1995. I began visiting the Chugach National Forest in 1981.

One of the main reasons I relocated to the Moose Pass area was to give my children and myself an opportunity to experience all the wonderful opportunities the Chugach National Forest offers. I hike, fish, boat, ski, snow sled, take photographs, view wildlife, pick berries, collect pine cones, search for antlers and gold, observe wildflowers, and tour guide friends and family through the forest. In the future, I plan to add snow machining and snow shoeing to my list of forest activities.

I have two small children under the age of three. Since they are too young to speak against their rights of forest use being taken away, as their advocate, I consider my appeal to speak for them, as well.

My husband and I now own two pieces of commercial property adjacent to the Seward Highway which will be adversely affected by the Preferred Alternative as described in the FEIS and the resulting Revised Forest Plan. Our gift shop is slated to open December 2002. A decrease in winter traffic will lower our projected winter sales.


I have attended public forums on proposed highway construction projects and on proposed actions regarding the spruce bark beetle infestation. I am on the mailing list with the Seward Ranger District of Forest Service and have had numerous opportunities to comment on proposed projects such as a ~~Hope~~ parking lot and Trail River Campground boat ramp. Had I been made aware of a meeting or comment period regarding the Preferred Alternative as described in the FEIS and the resulting Revised Forest Plan, I would have attended and given comment against this plan.

The following are main concerns regarding the Preferred Alternative and are outlined in my appeal.

- Current Economic Detriment in the Moose Pass Area
- Limitation of Future Growth of winter Commerce in the Moose Pass Area
- Catastrophic Limitations of Access to the Chugach National Forest

I will be keeping my letter on file for future reference. I will be expecting a written response from your offices in a reasonable time frame. If you should have any questions regarding my letter or appeal, please do not hesitate to contact me at my home phone number (907) 288-3680. Thank you in advance for your careful consideration of my appeal.

Sincerely,



Melissa Garver Guernsey

October 23, 2002

USDA Forest Service  
Attn: NFS – EMC Staff (Barbara Timberlake)  
Stop Code 1104  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1140

Regional Forester  
USDA Forest Service, Alaska Region  
P.O. Box 21628  
Juneau, AK 99801-1628

RE: Notice of Appeal filed pursuant to 36 CFR part 217, page 46 in the Record of Decision

Dear Forest Service:

This letter is a Notice of Appeal filed pursuant to 36 CFR part 217, page 46 in the Record of Decision.

My name is Melissa G. Guernsey and I reside at 41658 Seward Highway, Moose Pass, Alaska 99631. My telephone number is (907) 288-3680.

The decision I am appealing is the Preferred Alternative as described in the FEIS and the resulting Revised Forest Plan, specifically areas available for motorized and non-motorized winter activities, with modifications as further described in the Record of Decision, as stated on page 3 of the ROD.

The document in which the decision is contained is the Revised Land and Resource Management Plan of the Chugach National Forest Record of Decision, R10 MB-480b. The date of the decision was May 31, 2002 and the Deciding Officer is Regional Forester Dennis E. Bschor.

The specific portions of the document to which I object to are as follows:

- The closing of the Crescent Lake/Carter Lake area to all winterized use
- The closing of areas along the Sterling Highway and Seward Highway from Cooper Landing to Summit Lake and Moose Pass to all winter motorized use
- The closing of Trail River Campground south of Moose Pass to all winter winterized use
- The closing of the area north of Summit Lake to all winter motorized use
- The closing of Russian Lakes Trail to Aspen Flats Cabin to all winterized use

Federal regulation #36 CFR 219.21 Social and Economic Suitability states that the “responsible official involves interested and affected people in planning for National Forest System lands, provides for the development of relevant social and economic information and analyses...” This code further states that the official must develop or supplement the information and analyses related to the following: 1) Describe and analyze, as appropriate, the following: 1) demographic trends... ii) Employment, income and other economic trends;... 2) Analyze community or region risk and vulnerability...” The economic data stated in the analysis is insufficient to support the selection of the Preferred Alternative in the FEIS. The Community Economic Development Division (CEDD) in a published 2000 report titled Situations and Prospects for the Kenai peninsula Borough reported that the annual average daily traffic in Moose Pass to 1,661 per day. I could not find any data or research in the Record of Decision and related documents to support that this average will not be decreased due to fewer residents and non-residents of Alaska traveling to the Moose Pass area due to the restrictions of use as outlined in the Preferred Alternative in the FEIS.

The entire Kenai Peninsula Borough was designated a HUBZone (Historically Underutilized Business Zone) as part of the Small Business Reauthorization Act of 1997, Public Law 105-135, December 2, 1997. The criterion for this designation can be found at the web site [www.sba.gov/ak/](http://www.sba.gov/ak/). The closing of all the above mentioned areas to winter motorized use will further devastate an already documented struggling

winter economy. Again, I could find no documentation in the Record of Decision and related documents supporting that the economy specific to Moose Pass would not be negatively impacted due to these closures.

The local economy of Moose Pass consists of lodging, restaurants, a liquor store, gift shops, cabinet shops, air and guide services, etc. All of these businesses are inter-connected and all rely on traffic to bring dollars to this area. Any action by the USDA Forest Service which negatively affects that traffic and those dollars needs to be reversed before irreparable harm is caused to the local economy of Moose Pass.

In addition to economic reasons, I object to the Preferred Alternative as described in the FEIS and the resulting Revised Forest Plan. I am unable, however, due to the short frame to further discuss my points of disagreement at this time. I was made aware of these sweeping changes on October 16, 2002 and this appeal is due October 24, 2002.

In summary, I object to the Preferred Alternative as described in the FEIS and the resulting Revised Forest Plan on the basis of its severe economic ramifications to the economy of Moose Pass. The USDA Forest Service has failed to document this community vulnerability as set forth in the #36 CFR 219.21 Social and Economic Suitability.

My proposed solution is to return to the status quo regulations regarding the areas mentioned above. Adequate research and data needs to be collected and analyzed before any such actions (closings) should be allowed by the USDA Forest Service. Moose Pass residents and business owners should be notified and allowed to comment on proposed changes.

Appealant Melissa Garver Guernsey  
41658 Seward Highway  
Moose Pass, Alaska 99631  
(907) 288-3680

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M.D. Guernsey", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

M. G. Guernsey  
41658 Seward Hwy  
Moose Pass, AK 99631

**CERTIFIED MAIL**



7000 0520 0014 9604 9120

Return Receipt Requested  
Showing Address  
Where Delivered

Regional Forester

USDA Forest, Alaska Region

P.O. Box 21628

Juneau, AK 99801-1628

